33. Development of Agriculture.

MR. KANAKKU KESAVA PILLAI PARMESWARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*): speaking in Malayalam, said that the economic condition of the people of the country, whose mainstay was agriculture, was degenerating from day today. The two main causes for this were the lack of facilities for the development of agriculture and the want of capital for the purpose. The evil could be remedied only by popularising scientific methods of agriculture and by rendering substantial financial help. The amount annually allotted for agricultural loans was quite insufficient, and what little amount was set apart was not easily available to the agriculturists The cocoanut palm disease was doing much havoc in the country. The Agricultural Department had not been able to eradicate the disease so far. Though the country was capable of being self-supporting in the matter of food-grains required for local consumption, yet a large quantity of paddy was imported into the country every year. This evil could be remedied by improving the irrigational facilities in the State. Some substantial work had been done in South Travancore in this direction. But much had to be done in Central Travancore. The condition of the agriculturists of Central Travancore was deplorable. The *Kanni* crop usually failed on account of untimely floods and the *Makaram* crop for want of sufficient water. The people should be trained in using water-pumps for irrigational purposes. A large amount should be allotted annually for irrigation works and a separate Irrigation Department should be constituted.

The member then suggested the following measures for the improvemert and development of agriculture :—

1. The allotment for agricultural loans should be enhanced substantially and the same should be made available to the agriculturists at a smaller rate of interest and for a longer period.

2. Experimental farms should be established in each taluk and the people should be taught scientific methods of agriculture.

3. Demonstration farms should be established to enable the people to get acquainted with the use of improved agricultural implements and scientific manures.

4. Agricultural lectures should be conducted and wider publicity should be given to the agricultural leaflets issued by the Government of India.

5. Arrangements should be made for the conservation of forests to facilitate timely rainfall,

6. Better attention should be bestowed on cattle breeding. The taluk authorities and Municipalities should maintain stud bulls and make them available to the people free of charge.

7. Streams, canals and tanks originally available for irrigational purposes should be restored and better irrigation facilities should be afforded.

Among the particular needs of Tiruvalla, the member urged the need for completing the Kuttapuzha canal works immediately. The work was one, which when completed would be of immense use for irrigating a vast area of paddy fields in Tiruvalla and Changanacherry, besides affording greater facilities for communication. The work was half complete. A substantial amount should be allotted in the next year's budget for completing the work. The member also urged about the urgent necessity of opening the Varattar by cutting open the Mundati *chira*. The member, who represented the taluk at the 25th session of the Assembly, had explained in detail the advantages to be derived by opening the river and the then Dewan had promised to have the matter investigated. The difficulties and hardships experienced by the agriculturists of the taluk on account of the *chira* were innumerable. Many acres of paddy fields above the *chira* were being flooded during the rainy season, while the paddy fields lower down the *chira* were cut off from the river, with the result that they could get neither water nor silt from it. As a result, these fields yielded only twofold. If the *chira* was cut open, the fields would become more fertile again. This would also avoid portions of the M. C. Road from being flooded during the rainy season.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswaran Pillai. In response to your splendid peroration, the only thing that I can now say is that Government have already decided to reconsider the matter, or, in other words, to be more correct, Government have not finally decided that matter and it is still under investigation and the present Chief Engineer has promised to inspect the spot and submit a report.

MEMBER : മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ കമ്മിറ്റി തിരുവല്ലായിൽ വന്നിരുന്നപ്പോൾ മുണ്ടടിച്ചിറമുറിച്ച് വരട്ടാർ ഉറക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞങ്ങൾ ഒരുമെമ്മോറിയൽ കൊടുത്തു. അപ്പോൾ ഇതു് മേജർ ഇറിഗേഷനാണ്, മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷനെപ്പറ്റി മാത്രമേ കമ്മിറ്റിക്ക് ആലോചിക്കാൻ അധികാരമുള്ളൂ എന്ന് മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു.

DEWAN : നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ അനേകം കാര്യങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണ്. കുറിപ്പുഴതോട്ടിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള കാര്യവും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ അന്വേഷണം കഴിഞ്ഞ് റിപ്പോർട്ട് വന്നശേഷം ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാം.

നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞ മറ്റുകാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ആലോചിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

[Many of the points urged by you are under examination by the Minor Irrigation Committee. The Kuttapuzha canal scheme is under consideration by Government. It will be taken up on receipt of the committee's report. The other points dealt with by you will be considered.]